

Serial No. 10/575,086
Filed: April 10, 2006
Customer No. 23456

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 31, 39 and 56 as follows:

1-30 (Cancelled)

31 (Currently Amended): A stabilizer apparatus, comprising:

a chassis having a direction of travel from a rearward end toward a forward end;

a forward running gear supporting the forward end of the chassis;

a rear running gear supporting the rearward end of the chassis, at least one of the running gears being driven so that the ~~construction~~ stabilizer apparatus is self-propelled;

first and second pivot arms having upper ends pivotally connected to first and second sides, respectively, of the chassis and defining a pivotal axis transverse to the direction of travel, and having lower ends extending rearward from the pivotal axis, the second pivot arm extending laterally outward from the chassis a shorter distance than does the first pivot arm, so that the apparatus can operate closer to an obstacle on the second side of the apparatus than it can on the first side of the apparatus;

a working drum located between the pivotal axis and the rear running gear and mounted on the first and second pivot arms, the working drum including a drum axis extending transversely to the direction of travel;

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a combustion engine fixed to the chassis between the pivot arms and behind the forward running gear and in front of the working drum, the engine having an output axis co-axial with the pivotal axis so that the pivot arms and the working drum pivot about the output axis;

one and only one mechanical power transmission device, the power transmission device including a belt drive including a first pulley attached to an output shaft, a second pulley attached to the drum, and a drive belt connecting the pulleys, the belt drive pivoting with the working drum and the pivot arms about the pivotal axis, the power transmission device being received by the first pivot arm to transfer drive power from the output shaft to the working drum, ~~the power transmission device including a belt drive including a first pulley attached to an output shaft, a second pulley attached to the drum, and a drive belt connecting the pulleys, the belt drive pivoting with the working drum and the pivot arms about the pivotal axis;~~ and

a clutch operably connected between the engine and the power transmission device.

32 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the combustion engine has a crankshaft axis, and wherein the output axis and the pivotal axis are co-axial with the crankshaft axis.

33-35 (Cancelled)

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36 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

an operator's platform supported from the chassis and transversely movable relative to the chassis.

37 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

a lifting linkage including:

first and second two-armed levers located on opposite sides of the chassis and connected to each other in a non-rotatable manner by a coupling device extending parallel to the drum axis of the working drum;

first and second piston cylinder units connected between the chassis and the first and second two-armed levers; and

first and second pull rods connected between the first and second two-armed levers and the working drum.

38 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 37, wherein:

extension of the piston cylinder units raises the working drum and contraction of the piston cylinder units lowers the working drum.

39 (Currently Amended): An automotive construction apparatus, comprising:

a chassis having a direction of travel from a rearward end toward a forward end;

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a forward running gear supporting the forward end of the chassis;
a rear running gear supporting the rearward end of the chassis;
first and second pivot arms having upper ends pivotally connected to the chassis and defining a pivotal axis transverse to the direction of travel, and having lower ends extending rearward from the pivotal axis;

a working drum located between the pivotal axis and the rear running gear and mounted on the first and second pivot arms, the working drum including a drum axis extending transversely to the direction of travel;

a combustion engine fixed to the chassis between the pivot arms and behind the forward running gear and in front of the working drum, the engine having an output axis co-axial with the pivotal axis so that the pivot arms and the working drum pivot about the output axis;

at least one mechanical power transmission device received by at least one of the pivot arms to transfer drive power from the ~~output shaft~~ engine to the working drum; and

a lifting linkage for lifting and lowering the working drum, the linkage including:

a shorter arm and a longer arm fixedly connected together and rotatably connected to the chassis;

a piston cylinder unit connected between the chassis and the shorter arm; and

a pull link connected between the working drum and the longer arm.

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40 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 39, wherein:

the lifting linkage further comprises:

a second shorter arm and a second longer arm fixedly connected together and rotatably connected to the chassis on an opposite side of the chassis from the first shorter and longer arms;

a coupling device extending through the chassis and connecting the first shorter and longer arms to the second shorter and longer arms in a non-rotatable manner relative to each other;

a second piston cylinder unit connected between the chassis and the second shorter arm; and

a second pull link connected between the working drum and the second longer arm.

41-47 (Cancelled)

48 (Previously Presented): An automotive construction apparatus, comprising:

a chassis having a direction of travel from a rearward end toward a forward end;

a forward running gear supporting the forward end of the chassis;

a rear running gear supporting the rearward end of the chassis;

first and second pivot arms having upper ends pivotally connected to first and

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second sides of the chassis and defining a pivotal axis transverse to the direction of travel, and having lower ends extending from the pivotal axis;

a working drum located between the forward running gear and the rear running gear, the working drum mounted on the first and second pivot arms and including a drum axis extending transversely to the direction of travel;

a combustion engine fixed to the chassis between the pivot arms, the combustion engine being located behind the forward running gear and in front of the rear running gear; and

a lifting linkage including:

first and second pairs of lever arms located on opposite sides of the chassis, the first pair being connected to the second pair in a non-rotatable manner by a coupling device extending parallel to the drum axis of the working drum, each pair of lever arms including two arms fixedly connected together;

first and second piston cylinder units connected between the chassis and the first and second pairs of lever arms; and

first and second pull rods connected between the first and second pairs of lever arms and the working drum.

49 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 48, wherein:

extension of the piston cylinder units lifts the working drum and retraction of the piston cylinder units lowers the working drum.

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50 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 48, wherein:

the working drum is located behind the pivotal axis; and

the combustion engine is located in front of the drum axis.

51 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 48, wherein:

the two arms of each pair of lever arms are integrally formed as a two-armed lever.

52 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the combustion engine has a crankshaft axis, and wherein the pivotal axis is co-axial with the crankshaft axis.

53 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 48, further comprising:

at least one mechanical power transmission device received by at least one of the pivot arms to transfer drive power from the engine to the working drum;

wherein the at least one power transmission device comprises a belt drive including a first pulley attached to an output shaft, a second pulley attached to the drum, and a drive belt connecting the pulleys, the belt drive pivoting with the working drum and the pivot arms about the pivotal axis.

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54 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the belt drive is located within the first pivot arm.

55 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 53, wherein:

there is only one mechanical power transmission device, and the only one mechanical power transmission device is carried by the first pivot arm; and

the second pivot arm extends laterally outward from the chassis a shorter distance than does the first pivot arm, so that the apparatus can operate closer to an obstacle on the second side of the apparatus than it can on the first side of the apparatus.

56 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[51]]~~48, further comprising:

an operator's platform supported from the chassis and transversely movable relative to the chassis.

57 (Previously Presented): An automotive construction apparatus, comprising:

a chassis having a direction of travel from a rearward end toward a forward end;

a forward running gear supporting the forward end of the chassis;

a rear running gear supporting the rearward end of the chassis;

first and second pivot arms having upper ends pivotally connected to first and second sides of the chassis and defining a pivotal axis transverse to the direction of

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travel, and having lower ends extending from the pivotal axis;

a working drum located between the forward running gear and the rear running gear, the working drum mounted on the first and second pivot arms and including a drum axis extending transversely to the direction of travel;

a combustion engine fixed to the chassis between the pivot arms, the combustion engine being located behind the forward running gear and in front of the rear running gear; and

a lifting linkage including:

a shorter arm and a longer arm fixedly connected together and rotatably connected to the chassis;

a piston cylinder unit connected between the chassis and the shorter arm; and

a pull link connected between the working drum and the longer arm.

58 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the combustion engine has a crankshaft axis and the pivotal axis is co-axial with the crankshaft axis.

59 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 57, further comprising:

at least one mechanical power transmission device received by at least one of the pivot arms to transfer drive power from the engine to the working drum;

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wherein the at least one power transmission device comprises a belt drive including a first pulley attached to an output shaft, a second pulley attached to the drum, and a drive belt connecting the pulleys, the belt drive pivoting with the working drum and the pivot arms about the pivotal axis.

60 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the belt drive is located within the first pivot arm.

61 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 59, wherein:

there is only one mechanical power transmission device, and the only one mechanical power transmission device is carried by the first pivot arm; and

the second pivot arm extends laterally outward from the chassis a shorter distance than does the first pivot arm, so that the apparatus can operate closer to an obstacle on the second side of the apparatus than it can on the first side of the apparatus.

62 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 57, further comprising:

an operator's platform supported from the chassis and transversely movable relative to the chassis.

63 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein:

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extension of the piston cylinder unit raises the working drum and contraction of the piston cylinder unit lowers the working drum.

64 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein:

the lifting linkage further comprises:

a second shorter arm and a second longer arm fixedly connected together and rotatably connected to the chassis on an opposite side of the chassis from the first shorter and longer arms;

a coupling device extending through the chassis and connecting the first shorter and longer arms to the second shorter and longer arms in a non-rotatable manner relative to each other;

a second piston cylinder unit connected between the chassis and the second shorter arm; and

a second pull link connected between the working drum and the second longer arm.

65 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein:

the shorter arm and the longer arm are integrally formed as a two-armed lever.

66 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein:

the working drum is located behind the pivotal axis; and

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the combustion engine is located in front of the drum axis.

67 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 39, wherein:

the shorter arm and the longer arm are integrally formed as a two-armed lever.